

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 3-37 and 39-63 are currently pending in this application. Applicant is amending herewith Claims 1, 47, 49, and 51. Applicant is canceling herewith without prejudice Claims 18-27. After entry of the foregoing amendments, Claims 1, 3-17, 28-37 and 39-63 will be pending in this application. Applicant submits that Claims 1, 3-17, 28-37 and 39-63 are entitled to further examination.

The Office Action:

Claims 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious and unpatentable over the patent to Petite et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,437,692) in view of the patent to Johnson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,553,094). Claims 20-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious and unpatentable over Petite et al. in view of Johnson et al. and further in view of the patent to Jenny et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,897,607). Claims 1, 3-17, 28-37 and 39-63 have been allowed. Applicant respectfully traverses the foregoing rejections.

The Rejection Under Section 103:

Claims 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious and unpatentable over the patent to Petite et al. in view of the patent to Johnson et al. Claims 20-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious and unpatentable over Petite et al. in view of Johnson et al. and further in view of the patent to Jenny et al.

Applicant is canceling herewith Claims 18-27 without prejudice to applicant's right to file continuation patent applications directed to the subject matter thereof. In view of the

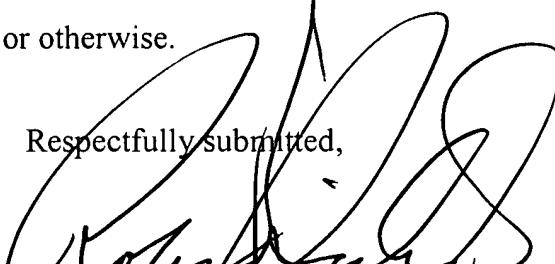
cancellation of Claims 18-27, applicant submits that the foregoing rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are moot.

Allowed Claims:

The Office Action states that Claims 1, 3-17, 28-37 and 39-63 are allowed. Since applicant is canceling herewith Claims 18-27, Claims 1, 3-17, 28-37 and 39-63 are the only claims remaining in the application. Therefore, all pending claims have been allowed by the examiner. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion:

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks. Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance. Such action is courteously solicited. Applicant further requests that the Examiner call the undersigned counsel if allowance of the claims can be facilitated by examiner's amendment, telephone interview or otherwise.

Respectfully submitted,

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